

# PRESS RELEASE

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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**sustainindy**

### **INDIANAPOLIS STUDENTS “MAKE A SPLASH”**

*DPW field trip teaches students about water quality*

INDIANAPOLIS – Nearly 275 fourth and fifth grade students made a splash today at the Indianapolis Department of Public Works’ fourth annual “Make a Splash Indianapolis” water festival field trip.

Held at Riverside Park, students participated in five hands-on learning stations, where they explored a variety of water-related topics, from water pollution to raw sewage overflows.

“Events like these not only give us the opportunity to stress the importance of preserving and protecting local waterways, but we also have the chance to pique students’ interest in water quality-related careers,” said Department of Public Works (DPW) Director David Sherman. “I hope these students share what they’ve learned with their friends and families so that everyone can help improve the quality of our streams and rivers.”

At the event, DPW encouraged students to be good stewards of the environment. Students were given reusable aluminum water bottles to take home and use in place of one-time use plastic water bottles. Students also were introduced to the TerraCycle program, which will “upcycle” the students’ drink pouches and chip bags to produce tote bags, shower curtains and various other products. TerraCycle reimburses schools and charities for each item upcycled, and teachers were given instructions on starting TerraCycle programs at their respective schools.

SustainIndy joined the event this year to help communicate the need for a sustainable environment, and DPW incorporated the concept of sustainability into each of the day’s activities.

“It’s never too early to teach children how to be sustainable and how they can contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in our community,” said Kären Haley, director of the city’s Office of Sustainability, who also served as emcee for the event’s luncheon. “When taught these habits early on, children are likely to continue them as they grow, and in order to make Indianapolis a truly sustainable city, we need future generations to continue the work we’ve started.”

Participating schools included Abraham Lincoln Elementary, Acton Elementary and Deer Run Elementary.

“Make a Splash Indianapolis” was made possible through support from the Indianapolis Department of Public Works’ Clean Stream Team, which is working to improve water quality in

*(more)*

*Indianapolis Students “Make a Splash”/Addl*

Marion County. Project WET, a nonprofit water education program for educators and students, designed “Make a Splash” to emphasize water education principles in a fun, interactive environment.

Other sponsors included American Structurepoint, Black & Veatch, Clark Dietz, Commonwealth Engineers, Inc., Crawford Murphy & Tilly, DLZ, Friends of the White River, Hirons & Company, MWH, O.W. Krohn & Associates, Marsh, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Repro Graphics, RW Armstrong, Sycamore Advisors and Veolia Water.

Mayor Greg Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October of 2008. Both represent an innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest. For more information, visit [www.sustainindy.org](http://www.sustainindy.org).

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